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Report of the Board

**Findings of the Coal Strike Commission
Are Favorable to the Cause
of the Miners.**

Sliding Scale Minimum Wage

No Award is Made as to Recog-
nition of the Miners'
Union.

Washington, March 21.—The report of the commission appointed by the president last October to investigate the Anthracite coal strike was made public today. The report is dated March 18, and is signed by all the members of the commission who are Judge Geo. Gray of Delaware; Labor Commissioner Carroll D. Wright and Brigadier-General John M. Wilson, both of this city; Bishop John L. Spaulding of Illinois; Thomas H. Watkins of Pennsylvania and Edward M. Parker of this city. The report is to be illustrated and it will be accompanied by the testimony taken by the commission, but thus far only the report proper has been printed. This alone covers 87 pages of printed matter.

In brief the commission awards a general increase of wages amounting in most instances to 10 percent, some decreases of time; the settlement of all disputes by arbitration; fixes a minimum wage and a sliding scale; provides against discrimination of persons by either the mineowners or the miners on account of membership or non-membership in a labor union, and provides that the awards made shall continue in force until March 31, 1906. The commission discussed to some extent the matter of recognition or not recognition of the miners' union, but declined to make any award on this measure.

The report also provides that any difficulty or disagreement arising under this award as to its interpretation or application, or in any way growing out of the relations of the employer and employed which cannot be settled or adjusted by consultation between the superintendent or manager of the mine or mines and the miner or miners directly interested, or is of a scope too large to be settled, shall be referred to a permanent joint committee, to be called a board of conciliation, to consist of six persons, appointed as afterward provided.

The recommendations fixing the scale of prices for the miners is as follows: In all cases where the miners are paid by the car, the increase awarded to the contract miners is based upon the cars in use, the topping required and the rates paid per car which were in force on April 1, 1902. Any increase in the size of the car or in the topping required shall be accompanied by proportionate increase in the rate paid per car.

VIII.—The following scale of wages shall become effective April 1, 1903, and shall effect all miners and mine-workers included in the awards of the commission.

The wages fixed in the awards shall be the basis of and the minimum under the sliding scale:

For each increase of five cents in the average price of white ash coal of sizes above pea coal sold at or near New York, between Perth Amboy and Edgewater, and reported to the bureau of anthracite coal statistics, say above \$4.50 per ton, the employees shall have an increase of one percent in compensation, which shall continue until a change in the average of said coal works a reduction or an increase in compensation; but the rate of compensation shall in no case be less than that fixed in the award. That is, when the price of said coal reaches \$4.55 per ton, the compensation will be increased one percent to continue until the price falls below \$4.50 per ton, when the one percent increase will cease until the price reaches \$4.60 per ton, when an additional one percent will be added and so on.

These average prices shall be computed monthly by an accountant clerk named by the circuit judge of the Third judicial district, and paid by the coal operators such compensation as

the appointing judge may fix, which compensation shall be distributed among the operators in proportion to the tonnage of each mine.

LOSS OCCASIONED BY STRIKE

BUSINESS OF THE COMMISSION
HAS BEEN TRANSACTED
WITHOUT THE LEAST
FRICTION.

The commission gives an estimate of the losses occasioned by the strike. These are as follows:

As to mineowners, \$46,100,000; to the mine employes in wages, \$25,000,000; to the transportation companies, \$25,000,000. The commission says in making their investigation they have done whatever it was practicable to do to acquaint themselves with the conditions which brought about the strike, and they make the following summary of their work:

They have gone through mines and inspected the various conditions which the production of anthracite coal involves; they have visited the breakers, the engine houses and pumping station; they have examined the machinery by which the miners are protected from water and foul air; they have talked with the miners in their work and at their homes and they have given attention to the economic, domestic, scholastic and religious phases of their lives; they have listened to and directed the examination and cross examination of 55 witnesses; they have given free scope to the counsel who represented the operators, the non-union men and the miners, and they have devoted an entire week to hear their arguments.

The commissioners also say that while there have been differences of opinion among themselves, there never has been a time during the five months of the existence of the commission when there was an unpleasant word spoken among them, "or any indication whatever of thought or desire of aught save truth and justice."

The commission then takes up the demands of the mineworkers and the answers of the mine operators, giving in detail the reasons for the findings. In a general way they say that the conditions of the life of a mineworker outside the mines does not justify to their full extent the adverse criticisms made by their representatives. They also find that the social conditions in the mining communities are good and they fail to find that the wages are so low among the miners as necessarily to force them to put their small children to work. The commission also finds that the average daily rate of earnings in the anthracite regions does not compare favorably with that of other industries.

On the subject of the recognition of the mineworkers' union, the commission says that they do not consider that this subject is within the scope of the jurisdiction conferred upon them.

They do say, however, that "the suggestion of a working agreement between employers and employees embodying the doctrine of collective bargaining is one which the commission believes contains many hopeful elements for the adjustment of relations. Further on they say: "The present constitution of the United Mineworkers of America does not present the most inviting inducements to the operators to enter into contractual relations with it."



HERMAN WISE,
Sole Agent for Astoria.

POSITION IS EXPLAINED

Venezuelan Debt Represents Cap-
ital and Labor, Says the
Minister.

CLAIMS WILL BE DEFENDED

Germany Is Not Loved Abroad,
but She Demands
Respect.

Berlin, March 21.—Foreign Secretary Von Reithofen in the reichstag said that the German government stood by the Dicono bank's Venezuelan claims because they represented German capital and labor. The claims were just and the government would defend them before The Hague arbitration tribunal. The original rate of interest, seven percent on the Venezuelan railroad capital might seem high, according to European ideas, but the secretary reminded the house that seven percent was the rate of the Egyptian debt before its unification. Venezuela defaulted in her payments of the guarantee until the amount had accumulated to \$1,700,000. Then the Dicono bank accepted bonds in lieu of the arrears, and capitalised the future payments.

Herr Oertel, agrarian, referring to the interviews with Minister Von Sternberg, said that he did not see that Germany was loved abroad, but wanted respect and if need be, fear. The speaker added that he believed that it was often unnecessary for diplomacy to draw off its dancing pumps and put on cuirasses boots.

MARKETS AND CONDITIONS

Money Easy, Rates of Interest Low
and Improvement Is General.

New York, March 21.—The end of the week finds market prices at a higher level, with a better feeling all around. The only cause for uneasiness, in the opinion of observers, is that created by the Southern Pacific controversy, the importance of which seems to have been unduly magnified. Technically, the market is believed to be in a fairly strong position. Time money is freely offered at a lower and is only sparingly accepted. Traders are reported to have reversed their positions in a number of instances and in the last few days have seen some "good" in buying by substantial stocks.

The ratification of the Cuban reciprocity treaty removes one element of doubt and the labor situation, which looked threatening a few days ago, is somewhat improved. Early announcement of several important railroad "deals" now pending is expected. Reports that Rockefeller interests have increased their New York Central holdings are credited in conservative quarters.

Returns of almost 100 important railroads for January show very nominal net decreases. Missouri Pacific earnings for that month show a net increase of \$22,600.

LOST ITS CHARTER

Initiation of Questionable Characters
Sins New York Masonry.

New York, March 21.—Mount Zion chapter, Royal Arch Masons, no longer exists. By order of the officers of the grand chapter, its charter has been withdrawn.

The offense is the same as that which cost Doris lodge its charter—the election and initiation of "Shang" Draper. Investigations have also been started in Chancellor Walworth lodge and Munn lodge, two of the best known Masonic bodies in the city. Richard A. Canfield is a member of Walworth lodge and has been for many years. George Kraus, manager of the Dewey theater, is a member of Munn lodge, and is the master, the chief of the body. Masons everywhere in New York are looking over the rosters of their lodge to see if they can catch any notorious person among their membership.

SISTERS LEAVE FRANCE.

Forty Members of Daughters of Jesus
Coming to America.

Brest, France, March 21.—One hundred sisters of the Order of Jesus have left here owing to the closure of their establishments. Thirty of them are going to Belgium, 30 to Canada and 40 to the United States.

Castro Resigns

President of Venezuela Retires at Request
of Leaders, but He May Be
Reinstated.

Term to Have Ended In 1908

Resignation Was Presented After
the Reading of His
Message.

Caracas, March 21.—President Castro has resigned. He placed his resignation of the presidency of the republic of Venezuela in the hands of the president of congress after the reading of the presidential message. In the ordinary course of events President Castro's term would have ended on February 20, 1908. He was elected president of Venezuela in February of last year for six years, beginning February 20, 1902.

WILL AGAIN TAKE OFFICE

INTENTION OF CASTRO TO STAY
OUT ONLY UNTIL PENDING
QUESTIONS ARE SETTLED.

Washington, March 21.—It was intimated by the Associated Press correspondent that while president Castro

intention to keep it within the official family with the arrangement to make Castro vice-president so that he would succeed to the presidency. It is the belief there, based upon information which has up to now been kept inviolate, that the present plan is to allow President Castro to remain out of office for a short time, and then re-elect him at the next election.

Representations were made to Castro several months ago by leaders in Venezuela that his resignation would have the effect of enabling the people of that country to present a solid front to the world in matters of controversy with the several powers.

IMPERIAL LOANS.

Berlin, March 21.—The budget committee of the reichstag has made total changes in the estimates amounting to a saving of \$14,975,000. The newspapers estimate that the imperial loan will amount to \$40,000,000 instead of \$50,000,000. The Berlin bankers, however, say the loan, which will be issued toward the end of April, will be over \$75,000,000.

LIMA TO CALLAO.

Lima, Peru, March 21.—The government has granted to a local syndicate the concession for an overhead electric trolley railroad with double tracks between Lima and Callao, the principal seaport of Peru. Work on the railroad will be begun within six months, and it is to be concluded in two years.

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